

Eriogonum corymbosum Cinder Sparse Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Wild Buckwheat Cinder Sparse Vegetation
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Sparse Vegetation
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Unconsolidated material sparse vegetation
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Sparsely vegetated soil slopes
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural Sparsely vegetated soil slopes
FORMATION	Dry slopes
ALLIANCE	<i>Eriogonum corymbosum</i> Sparsely Vegetated Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL This association has only been described from Sunset Crater Volcano and Wupatki NM. Until further data is collected regionally there is no global information or conservation rank.

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

Wild Buckwheat Cinder Sparse Vegetation occurs in Sunset Crater Volcano on steep cinder cones. This association was mapped on Sunset Crater as well as on other unnamed cinder cones. It also occurs in the project environs on cinder cones mainly in the eastern section of the project boundary. This association was mapped on Black Mountain.

Globally

This association was also found to occur at Wupatki NM.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

The relevé sampled for this association occurred at 2,320m, on a steep slope (30%) in cinder gravel.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Shrub	<i>Eriogonum corymbosum</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Andropogon hallii</i>

ASSOCIATED SPECIES

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

Pinus ponderosa

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

Wild Buckwheat Cinder Sparse Vegetation had a total vegetation cover of 10%. There was no tree cover. The shrub layer had 2% absolute cover, 8% absolute cover was recorded in the herbaceous layer. Species richness within the relevé consisted of 7 species.

The one relevé measured had sparse vegetation cover. *Eriogonum corymbosum* was dominant with 7% cover within the shrub and ground layers collectively. The herbaceous layer had sparse *Andropogon hallii* (1% absolute cover).

CONSERVATION RANK G?

DATABASE CODE Cegl005803

MAP CLASSES

Wild Buckwheat Cinder Sparse Vegetation corresponds to the map class Wild Buckwheat / Sand Bluestem Sparse Vegetation (map code 4). Originally, the proposed association considered sand bluestem (*Andropogon hallii*) to be an important component to the understory community; however, with additional data collected at Wupatki NM sand

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bluestem was no longer considered a dominant understory species throughout the plant association's range. Sand bluestem often co-occurs in this map class at Sunset Crater Volcano NM and therefore the map class of Wild Buckwheat / Sand Bluestem Sparse Vegetation was retained on the vegetation map. Wild Buckwheat / Sand Bluestem Vegetation is mapped as occurring in only small patches on steep cinder cones. It occurs in Sunset Crater Volcano NM in 11 polygons, 15 hectares, and occurs in the project environs in 23 polygons, 32 hectares.